

Not long after her arrival in Heber she married first Thomas Todd and later Daniel McMillan, a widower, whose family was grown. He was the village blacksmith, he was a hard worker and made good wages. He had very little property when she married him but through her thrift, economy and hard work she managed to save enough of his means to build them a very nice, red sandstone home, where they lived comfortably for many years.

One day a strange woman came with two little girls and asked Mary if she would care for them for a day or two, while she went to Park City on urgent business, but she never returned and Mary cared for them as though they were her own until they were married. Elva married Jos. Howarth and Nettie married James Reid Lindsay.

Mary went out as a practical nurse and she did beautiful hand work. She had a stroke and was bed-fast for 14 years, paralyzed from her waist down, even thru this she was cheerful and most always kept her hands busy doing beautiful netting.

In the spring of 1869 her son John who worked on the Union Pacific Railroad as a bridge builder from Omaha to Utah, paid his mother a visit. He was quite pleased with what he found and said he was sure they were better off than if they'd have stayed in Scotland. He had a home, wife and two children in Lawrence, Kansas.

In 1898 her son James who lived in Maryland came and visited with her for a few weeks, and he too admitted the Mormons were better than he had been led to believe.

Mary Murdoch McMillian died Dec. 5, 1900 at the age of 81 years, she was loved and respected by all who knew her. She never lost her faith in God or in the Gospel for which she had suffered so much.

Her daughter Mary, married William Lindsay. Her son Andrew, married Mary Ann Thompson. Her son Alex, married Eliza Thompson.

Mary Murdoch Mair Mc Millian



1819 — 1900

Mary Murdoch was born November 23, 1819 at Gaswater, Ayrshire, Scotland. She was the daughter of James and Mary Murray Murdoch, her father died when he was overcome by damp gas, while trying to rescue a fellow worker from a well. This made it necessary for Mary to seek employment as soon as she was old enough. She worked mostly at farm homes where she learned to milk cows, make butter and cheese. Also to tend the cows and at harvest time to work in the field, as all the grain was bound by hand.

During the winter she attended school. She and her sister Veronica were in the same room, one day when Mary was coughing, the teacher told her she must stop coughing or leave the room. Veronica went to her and whispered in her ear, "Mary, ye dinna ha too."

She helped to knit the family stockings.

Then she was about twenty years old, she married Allan Mair whom she had known since childhood. He was a steady, sober young man who worked on the farm and herded sheep.



They were strictly religious people who observed the Sabbath day and attended the Kirk regularly.

They had a very comfortable home, although its furnishings were plain and simple. They were happy and contented and enjoyed their home very much.

They were blessed with nine children. By 1850 the Mormon elders came to Scotland preaching a new and strange doctrine. After hearing it, she and her Mother were baptized by her brother John M. Murdoch who had previously joined the church and now had the authority to officiate in that capacity.

Her husband refused to hear the new Gospel or to have anything to do with it or anyone who had an interest in it.

Although he had given his consent for his wife to be baptized, when she ask his permission this caused some friction in the home where all had been peace and harmony before.

The Savior had said while here on the earth "That his gospel would have just such an effect" as it did in this family.

Her brother John M. Murdoch and his family and her Mother had gone to Utah and she felt she was left quite alone.

But she had received an abiding testimony of the Gospel which gave her much comfort. She had tried to convert her husband but all to no avail. She lived in this manner for fifteen years. Her two older sons, James and John had gone to America and made homes for themselves in the state of Maryland where they worked in coal mines.

Another son Foulds was soon to be married. She had not been able to teach the Gospel to any of them and for this she sorrowed greatly—it was the most earnest desire of her heart that her three youngest children would be members of the church and she could see no other way for this to be accomplished but to leave her husband and home and go to Utah, which to them was Zion.

She confided this to her daughter Mary who was fourteen.

She told her of her plans and Mary agreed to assist all she could in accomplishing it and she did.

Although Mary's brother John's two children had died on their way to Utah, also her dear Mother departed this life on the dreary plains crossing the United States while pulling a hand cart. Still, she felt she wanted to go. As soon as the plans were made for going, Mary, the daughter carried bundles as soon as the mother could get them ready and took them to the home of a friend, to be ready when the time came for them to leave. John Aird was this friend and he secured passage for them on the sailing vessel Saint Mark.

The father had been led to believe they were going to visit friends for a short time and had given his permission.

The Mother, Mary, Andrew and Alex reached Liverpool in safety where they boarded the ship in company with other L.D.S. emigrants bound for New York in America.

They had a fairly good voyage crossing the great Atlantic which took four weeks.

A few days after their departure the father learned of their real whereabouts and sent a cablegram to his sons in Maryland asking them to meet the ship and see if they could persuade their Mother to return, if not to at least prevent the children from going to Utah. The boys went to New York only to find the emigrants had started their westward journey a few days before.

This family crossed the plains in Andrew Scott's ox-train and passed through all the trying experiences of pioneers making that dreary, tiresome journey of one thousand miles.

They reached their destination at Heber in October 1866. They went to the home of her brother John M. whom she had not seen for fourteen years. Here they were royally welcomed, both John and Mary had passed through many trying experiences and had many sorrowful as well as pleasant tales to tell.